

Gene Therapy Project Summary

Preliminary Study1. Encapsulation of β -gal coding DNA linear and supercoiled in a PLA blend

- **Materials:** 1 g PLA (300K) dissolved in 5 ml of methylene chloride
 2 g PLA (2K) dissolved in 5 ml of methylene chloride
 β -gal plasmid (1-2 mg/ml), diluted 1: 5
- **Methods:** The two solutions were mixed(no phase separation observed).
 5 drops of Span 85 was mixed into this solution.
 The resulting mixture was aliquoted into glass vials(2 ml/vial).
 In each glass vial, 100 μ l of DNA(20 μ g-40 μ g) was added.
 The glass vials were left in the refrigerator for two days and lyophilized.
- **Note:** After addition of the DNA solution, the polymer blend precipitated quickly and droplets of DNA were visible under optical microscopy.

Implantation of DNA/PLA pellets

- **Sterilization:** EtOh 5 min
 PBS-P/S 5 min
- **Surgery:** Each rat received linear DNA into the left leg and supercoiled DNA into the right. Implants were inserted into incised muscle - either the vastus or the hamstring. The muscle was sutured back together and then the skin.

Rat ID	<u>Implant Duration</u>	
R1	11/6 - 11/20/91	2 weeks
R2	11/6 - 3/6/92	4 months
R116	8/19 - 9/8/93	3 weeks

- **Explant:** Rats were perfused with PBS/heparin followed by 3% paraformaldehyde and 0.2% glutaraldehyde in PBS. Post-fix with 3% paraformaldehyde followed by 15% sucrose/PBS. Excised muscles were cut with a cryostat and stained with X-Gal.